

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/567,568

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

SARANG AFZALI

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 2/9/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,5 and 13.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20090330.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brian Hannon on 3/30/2009.

CLAIMS:

2. The non-elected claims 2 and 7-12 have been cancelled.
3. The limitation of new claim 14 has been incorporated into the newly amended claim 1, thus claim 14 has been cancelled.
4. Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a retainer for a roller bearing which is made of a metal plate and has a tubular main portion, a plurality of pockets formed in the main portion intermittently concerning a circumferential direction and capable of retaining rollers rollably on respective inner sides thereof, and an outwardly oriented flange-like collar portion formed at an axial end of the main portion, comprising the steps of: forming an annular intermediate material by subjecting the metal plate to die cutting; forming a second intermediate material by forming a plurality

of through holes in the intermediate material intermittently concerning in the circumferential direction; plastically deforming [a] an entire portion of the second intermediate material excluding a radially outer end portion thereof into a tubular shape; and forming the portion plastically deformed into the tubular shape as the main portion, forming a portion corresponding to the radially outer end portion of the second intermediate material as the collar portion or a collar portion element for forming the collar portion, and forming portions corresponding to the through holes as the pockets; wherein portions connecting [which are each present between] a central hole of the second intermediate material and each of the through holes are [each] formed in an arch shape in which a respective intermediate portion projects in [a] an inward radial direction of the second intermediate material relative to both end portions, and the [arch-like] arch shape portion is extended circumferentially when the portion of the second intermediate material excluding the radially outer end portion thereof is plastically deformed into the tubular shape.

These claim changes were made for the following reason: (1) to incorporate the limitation of "an entire portion" of new claim 14 into claim 1 to read over the applied art, (2) to explicitly recite that an entire portion of the second intermediate material is plastically deformed, (3) to explicitly recite that arch shape portions connect a central hole and each of the through holes, (4) to explicitly recite that the intermediate portion projects in an inward radial direction, and (5) to explicitly recite that arch shape portion is extended circumferentially.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest the series of steps recited, particularly the steps of plastically deforming an entire portion of the second intermediate material excluding a radially outer end portion thereof into a tubular shape.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SARANG AFZALI whose telephone number is (571)272-8412. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00-3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on 571-272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sarang Afzali/
Examiner, Art Unit 3726
3/30/2009

/DAVID P. BRYANT/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3726